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State of Louisiana
Department of Environmental Quality

M.J. "MIKE" FOSTER, JR.
GOVERNOR

September 17, 2001

J. DALE GIVENS
SECRETARY

Mr. Lake H. Barrett, Acting Director
Department of Energy
Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management
Washington, DC 20585

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Dear Mr. Barrett:

We greatly appreciate the opportunity to comment on the proposed high-level radioactive waste repository to be located at Yucca Mountain, and we enthusiastically encourage the Secretary of the Department of Energy (DOE) to submit a recommendation to the President of the United States for site development at Yucca Mountain.

We feel very strongly that high-level radioactive waste must be ultimately disposed in a facility specifically designed for the purpose, and on a site with the proper geological characteristics. We further believe that the waste should be retrievable in the event future technology allows for reuse or recycling.

Louisiana currently has two nuclear power plants, with an additional one immediately adjacent to our border. These plants have only limited, temporary storage facilities, which will be filled to capacity during this decade. There are no available facilities designed for long-term storage. In addition, the temporary storage facilities that are available are located in populated areas. It is absolutely inappropriate to even consider long-term storage of high-level radioactive waste in facilities that are designed only for the operating life of the plant, and are located in everyone's backyard.

The Nuclear Waste Policy Act charged DOE with the responsibility for properly disposing of spent nuclear fuel. It is clear that the preferred option is to locate all of this material in one, specially designed and remote location. We encourage DOE to meet its responsibilities and move forward expeditiously to construct and license the Yucca Mountain repository.

Sincerely,

J. Dale Givens
Secretary

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